

OFFICE ACTION

(1) The Office Action has required restriction to one of the following groups under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 32 and 33 drawn to an aircraft having a fuselage comprising an outer skin;
- II. Claims 18, 19, 25, 27-29 and 31 drawn to a cargo deck assembly;
- III. Claims 20-24 and 29-30 drawn to a cargo deck assembly; and
- IV. Claim 26 drawn to a cargo deck compartment.

Applicant respectfully traverses the election requirement. However, to be fully responsive, Applicant hereby elects Group I, claims 1-4, 6-10, 32 and 33.

According to the M.P.E.P. § 803, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it may include claims to independent or distinct inventions.

Applicant respectfully submits that the examination of the entire application, including claims 1-4 and 6-33 would not be a serious burden on the Examiner. This is particularly so because the Examiner has not provided reasons why the examination of all the inventions would be a serious burden. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the election requirement be withdrawn and that all claimed invention be examined in this application.

Furthermore, Applicant has paid a filing fee for an examination of all claims in this application. If the Examiner refuses to examine the claims paid for when this application was filed, Applicant must pay duplicative fees to file divisional applications

for the non-elected or withdrawn groups of claims. In conclusion, the Examiner has not shown that there would be a serious burden on the Examiner if the restriction were not made.

Any additional fee believed necessary for the consideration of this response and to prevent abandonment of this application is hereby authorized to be charged to deposit account no. 50-2036 with regards to Docket No. 59482.21880.

Respectfully submitted,

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